

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 OTP-01 CCO-00 CIAE-00

FCC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-05 USIA-06 COME-00 BIB-01

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 /082 W

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R 061657Z NOV 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6678

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 8387

FOR EB/TD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ITU

SUBJECT: ITU: WILLIAM BAZZY CALL ON AMBASSADOR

1. ON NOVEMBER 4 WILLIAM BAZZY, PUBLISHER OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAGAZINE, CALLED AMBASSADOR DALE AND REQUESTED IMMEDIATE APPOINTMENT. AMBASSADOR, WHO HAD MET BAZZY DURING TELECOM 75 EXHIBIT IN GENEVA OCTOBER 2-7, WHERE BAZZY WAS THE ORGANIZER OF US PAVILION, AGREED WHEN BAZZY INSISTED THAT MATTER WAS URGENT.

2. DURING ENSUING CONVERSATION, BAZZY INFORMED AMBASSADOR OF FOLLOWING:

A. BAZZY WAS ON WAY TO CAIRO WHERE HE IS PURPORTEDLY "REPRESENTING US TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY" IN TRYING TO SET UP BUSINESS DEALS WITH ARAB FIRMS IN ORDER TO "BREAK THE ARAB EMBARGO" (HE PRESUMABLY REFERRING TO ARAB LEAGUE BLACKLIST);

B. HE HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY UNNAMED GENEVA BUSINESSMAN TO SET UP JOINT VENTURE TO EXPLOIT ARAB TELECOMMUNICATIONS MARKET AND IS CONSIDERING THIS OFFER;

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C. SINCE HE IS OF LEBANESE DESCENT, BAZZY BELIEVES

ARABS TRUST HIM AND WOULD BE WILLING TO DO BUSINESS WITH HIM; HE CLAIMS HE IS ESPECIALLY CLOSE TO MAURICE GHAZAL, LEBANESE REPRESENTATIVE ON ITU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL AND CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL;

D. HE GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF LEBANON DEFAULTING ON DUES TO ITU AND INQUIRED WHEN LEBANON'S ARREARAGES WOULD RESULT IN LOSS OF VOTE IN ITU.

NOTE: LEBANON FULLY PAID UP TO JANUARY 1, 1976 AND BY DECISION OF ADMIN COUNCIL IN JUNE 1975, AT MEETING WHICH GHAZAL CHAIRED, NO MEMBER WILL LOOSE VOTE BECAUSE OF ARREARAGES BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1977 OR AFTER TWO YEARS OF NON-PAYMENT, WHICHEVER CAME LATER. END NOT.

E. HE BELIEVES CURRENT POLITICAL UNREST IN MIDDLE EAST PRESENTS EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR US BUSINESS FIRMS TO ESTABLISH THEMSELVES IN MIDDLE EAST TELECOMMUNICATIONS MARKET;

F. HE CHARGED THAT ITU SECRETARY GENERAL MILI HAS CLOSE TIES WITH ERICSSON TELECOMMUNICATIONS FIRM OF SWEDEN AND PROMOTES ERICSSON PRODUCTS AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY; AND

G. HE SAID HE IS VERY INTERESTED IN MIDDLE EAST POLITICAL SITUATION AND PLANNED TO CALL ON AMBASSADOR AGAIN ON RETURN FROM FORTHCOMING CAIRO TRIP.

3. BAZZY HAS CHECKERED REPUTATION IN GENEVA: ON ONE HAND HE IS GIVEN GREAT CREDIT FOR ORGANIZING LARGE AND SUCCESSFUL US PAVILIAON AT TELECOM 75 ON SHORT NOTICE BUT ON OTHER HAND HIS ABRASIVENESS, SHARP BUSINESS PRACTICES AND FREQUENT DISPUTES WITH ITU, HAVE GIVEN HIM A SOMEWHAT UNSAVORY AURA HERE.

4. SINCE HIS INITIAL CONTACT WITH AMBASSADOR DURING TELECOM 75, BAZZY HAS SOUGHT TO MAINTAIN A DIALOGUE ON POLITICAL ASPECTS OF ARAB POSTURE IN MIDEAST.

5. DURING NOVEMBER 4TH MEETING BAZZY MENTIONED THAT IN MID-OCTOBER HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH JOHN O'NEILL OF EB/TD AND ALSO WITH DON BRAMANTE OF EB/CBA IN CONFIDENTIAL

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ORDER TO URGE STATE DEPT SUPPORT FOR BAZZY'S EFFORTS TO SELL US PRODUCTS IN ME.

6. FOR DEPARTMENT: MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF DEPARTMENT COULD PROVIDE SOME INDICATION OF BAZZY'S REPUTATION IN US BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN GENERAL AND, IN PARTICULAR, ANY VERIFICATION OF HIS CLAIM TO REPRESENT "US TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY" IN HIS

ME DEALINGS.

7. FOR CAIRO: SHOULD BAZZY CONTACT EMBASSY WE WOULD
BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING IF, AND IF SO IN WHAT CONTEXT,
HE MENTIONS HIS MEETINGS WITH AMBASSADOR DALE.DALE

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